

Joint Budget Committee October 17, 2003

Attendance: Kit Boesch, Human Services; Corrie Keilty, Mayor's Office; Robin Mahoney, United Way; Terry Werner, City Council; Sandy Rupp, United Way; Ray Stevens, County Board; Bob Workman, County Board; and Kerry Eagen, County Board.

Ray called the meeting to order. Bob moved the minutes be approved as mailed. Terry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken they were unanimously approved.

Kit gave the Human Service Administrator's Report. Kit stated she had a couple of additional items.

- The Office of Military Families Report was distributed. This office served around 300 military families with money, referrals, workshops, counseling, etc. A job well done! Ray questioned whether the OMF will be an ongoing organization (after the war) or not? Kit stated at some point this office will go back to being handled by the military and then it is of course up to them.
- Kit stated she attended the Nebraska Minority and Justice Task Force Meeting the previous night at the Malone Center. Attendance was good—75 to 100 individuals. She stated several of our juvenile justice program individuals were in attendance. The meeting focused around the racial bias in the system. There are only four black judges in the state and no Hispanic judges. There are only six certified Hispanic translators in the state—translators certified through the court exam. Kit stated that the New Americans Task Force is encouraging Southeast Community College to offer classes for assisting individuals in studying for this Translator Court Exam.

On her actual report:

1. Beatty Brasch (Center for People in Need) has a warehouse full of "stuff" for low income families. The decision is being made on how to distribute it. Kit and Robin stated she has been working with the United Way Gifts in Kind Program. The Center is a 501c3 agency.
4. It has been a most frustrating process to discuss SICA funds with the State regarding meeting their criteria to be able to receive these funds. She stated there are 12 partners in Lancaster County working to get the survey out to a specific student population by October 20-24th. The survey will be given to approximately 300-500 students. And after the surveys are evaluated that the County will be able to write one or two grants for this money.
5. Immediate Needs Subcommittee began because some areas the Lincoln Public Schools and Human Services didn't work together very well. The lines of communication have opened up within the last year and a half due to this committee. Kit stated when the committee began there were six principals from LPS invited to join with emphasis on the mental health of their students. According to Beck Wild, LPS, twice the number of principals now have problems with mental health issues with their student population. This committee has been

invited to meet with all elementary school principals. The group will meet the third Friday, every other month at LPS Administrative Offices.

7. The issues of F3/ ICCU going to Region V was discussed. It is anticipated the ICCU will be moved to Region V by next fall.
10. Kit will begin soon to interview candidates for the Gambling Study. Bob mentioned to Kit that when the study is completed, Larry Dicks would like a copy of it.
13. Kit stated that there will be a trickle down effect here in Lincoln if the State closes the Norfolk Regional Center. The increase will be in mental health and substance abuse. Kit informed the committee to make sure some of the money comes here to Lincoln to assist in expansion projects as needed. Senator Jensen stated that the Lincoln Regional Center is normally full and that there is a waiting list. He also stated the Lincoln Regional Center will need to be expanded to meet the need. Ray commented that re-engineering of things is the way to get things down—from the ground up. The political assumption is that these individuals will come to Lincoln for services. Ray stated the County/City is annexing the Yankee Hill area (which the Lincoln Regional Center is located). He stated the State will need \$500,000 to redo the well to have water at the Lincoln Regional Center. There is no City water to the Lincoln Regional Center. For the City to provide water and sewer, it will need assurances the Lincoln Regional Center will be there.
14. Kit announced that four to six food and hunger coalitions (all the same people) have combined into three coalitions. It is an excellent group and Kit thanked United Way for being the catalyst in getting these groups to combine together.
15. Kit mentioned the updating of the Human Services website is to be completed by November 1, 2003. It was also decided that this website should be linked to United Way. Virginia will take care of that.

The Gambling Study interns were discussed. Kerry stated that Sue Eckley and the County Attorney are looking to the contract issues regarding hiring contractors like the interns. Kerry stated that small contractors have to have insurance. He also stated that legally it makes perfect, logical sense. Interns may be made County employees and therefore would be covered under worker's compensation. He stated that the City/County needs to deal with this type of employment. Discussion followed and it was determined that an independent contract is the best and cleanest way for the County. If made a temporary employee they and the County are protected. Kit stated that interns are the cheapest and fastest way to approach the study. Kit's goal is to have it completed by January 1, 2004.

The Human Services Planning Council (CSIP) has its feet on the ground with the new director, Robyn. She has been talking to players in the community and they are working on firming up the By-Laws. Discussion followed on the players at the table. It was stated the funders pay to participate and the coalition is open to the public.

It was noted that the United Way, Lancaster County, and the City of Lincoln fund CSIP yet CSIP still needs more funding to do what we'd like them to do. Funders meeting minutes were attached to the agenda.

Kit stated that T.J. McDowell (Lighthouse) is doing a great job with the Malone Center as interim director. He is out in the public getting things done and the Center is open and doing well. The senior program is going and child care will be opened in February 2004.

Kit announced that on October 16th a press conference was held to announce that Cedars Youth Services will be taking over the downtown child care center from Family Services. Family Services didn't feel they could afford to operate it any more. The switch has been smooth.

Corrie reported on Urban Development in Marc's absence. She stated that Horizon Housing returned the money to the Housing Authority. She also mentioned Lori Siebel has talked with the Mayor's Office regarding similar requests to streamline services. Corrie was asked if Lori is working with CSIP and Corrie did not know. It was stated that CSIP has a Basic and Emergency Needs Coalition.

Robin stated that United Way and Kerry have met regarding their contract and the process is still ongoing. She stated Madonna and Tabitha have combined adult day care services at Tabitha to better serve the clients.

The Public Policy Center contract with NebHands has money left over and is going to issue a combined RPF for behavioral health/IRIS and educational faith-based/community based services. To be completed by December 31, 2003.

Robin also reported on the 211 pilot project in Omaha. The 211 phone line would be called to receive information and referral information on human services. She stated the Department of Commerce is going to be merging IRIS (located in eastern Nebraska) and Service Point (western Nebraska) to increase access services for clients. Corrie stated this is similar to city services and making them more coordinated. She said some cities have it and others don't.

Robin stated that they are dedicated to pursuing the 211 information by 2005 through the State of Nebraska Bio-Terrorism funds.

Ray stated the next meeting will be: Friday, December 5th, 8:15-9:30 a.m., Mayor's Conference Room.

Ray adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Virginia D. Gergen